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May 5, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food & Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I appeal to you for responsible action regarding Docket #98N-1038 – Irradiation in the production, processing and handling of food.” These labels are very important. Please do not approve of a change to minimize awareness that foods that are irradiated

At the very least, there should be required, straightforward, clear and prominent labeling which would include the words IRRADIATION and IRRADIATED, plus the prominent display of the RADURA SYMBOL on all foods subjected to this risky technology. Many believe irradiated foods are dangerous and should not be consumed. As the trusted FDA, you would be remiss in not providing clear warning on any food product subjected to irradiation processes. Toning is down by calling it by other terms like “cold” or “electronic pasteurization” is not acceptable.

Food products are changed by the irradiation process, causing loss of important nutrients as well as sensory appeal. Unless potential consumers are informed each and every time they purchase an irradiated product, they are being misled, thinking they are getting a product free from this process. Who would expect, if they purchase a product with FDA approval, that important consumer information was being withheld or simply not mentioned. There should be a clear and full disclosure on the label of each product. In the past, consumers have come to trust in the FDA as responsible gatekeepers. Please do not slack up on this important issue.

Thank you.



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C: Congressman Hulshof
Senator Bond
Senator Ashcroft

98N-1038

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